

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Full Exercise of the 25th Tank Div in the Templin Area and Return of Units of the Division to Oranienburg, Prenzlau and Camp Vogelsang

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 8 November 1954

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS 25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At 1330 on 13 October 1954, noises of engines were heard from an easterly direction in the woods 3 km east of Beetz, northwest of Oranienburg. A three-axle armored personnel carrier and a column of 1 sedan, 1 jeep and 6 trucks and guides with red and white flags were seen in the woods. The column came from the north and proceeded eastward. After a short time, it was followed by a column of 60 motor vehicles including 15 tank trucks, 2 field kitchens and trucks occupied by soldiers, billeting equipment and Soviet families. The troops carried full field equipment. At the same time, a column of 35 T-34/85 tanks proceeded northeastward. Between 0100 and 0130 on 14 October, another column went northward, according to the noise of engines. Between 1000 and 1100, 4 ground attack aircraft approached twice an area about 3 km east of Beetz from a northern direction at an altitude of 300 to 400 meters. After three circles, the aircraft left toward the north. 1

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2. At 1030 on 13 October, 28 trucks passed through Dargersdorf and Templin and entered Camp Kannenburg. The vehicles came from the direction of Joachimsthal and carried approximately 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and carrying full field pack. Twelve trucks towed heavy AA guns, presumably 85-mm guns. Two trucks towed 122-mm field howitzers.

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3. After 0830 on 14 October, firing with light and heavy AA guns was practiced in the Templin training area. At 0915, two groups of 4 bombers each dropped several bombs over the training area. The exercise was repeated. Many reports of AA guns were heard after the dropping of the bombs. 1

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4. On 16 October, the following materiel from Camp Kannenburg was entrained at the Templin railroad station:

12 T-34/85 tanks at 0545:
 4 JSU-122 guns [redacted] at 0615:
 7 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] at 0800;
 17 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] at 0845.

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Subsequently, 6 JSU-122 guns arrived for entraining.
 Approximately 200 soldiers were seen during the loading. Truck
 [redacted] was also entrained. 2

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5. At 0830 on 16 October, 37 trucks with troops, which came from Prenzlau, went to Camp Hammelspring. The trucks towed 8 x160-mm mortars and 8 x 76.2-mm artillery pieces [redacted]

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6. Troop trains observed at the Templin railroad station between 15 and 17 October included:

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15 October. At 1230, a shipment of 4 boxcars with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and 8 flatcars with T-34/85 tanks which [redacted] went from Eberswalde to Vogelsang.

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16 October. At 1230, a shipment of 24 boxcars with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, and 22 flatcars with T-34/85 and JS-3 tanks which [redacted] went to Bad Freienwalde.

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17 October. At 0730, a shipment of 4 boxcars with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and 13 flatcars with T-34/85 tanks which [redacted] went to Eberswalde. 2

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7. On 18 October, the following columns were observed in the Vogelsang area:

20 trucks [redacted] which presumably came from Camp Burgwall and proceeded toward Falkental.

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48 trucks [redacted] which came from Zehdenick and proceeded toward Liebenwalde.

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20 trucks with billeting equipment and ammunition boxes [redacted] which came from Vogelsang and proceeded toward Zehdenick.

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30 trucks with ammunition and billeting equipment and including repair shop and tank trucks, which came from Vogelsang and proceeded toward Templin. [redacted]

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8. On 19 October, more than 100 motor vehicles with field guns entered the new east section of Camp Vogelsang. 3, 4
The column came from the direction of Zehdenick. On 19 October, 10 trucks [] left Vogelsang and proceeded toward Falkental via Zehdenick. The tailboards of the motor vehicles were marked by a white ball with a black square. 3 25X1
9. On 20 October, movements from Vogelsang toward Zehdenick involved:
10 trucks with equipment and ammunition [] 25X1
[] 25X1
30 trucks with billeting equipment and Russian women [] 25X1
[] and 25X1
25 trucks with billeting equipment and ammunition boxes [] 25X1
[] 25X1
10. Twenty-five trucks with red flags [] entered Camp Vogelsang. 3 25X1
11. [] at least 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were loaded onto 5 boxcars and dispatched to Bernau from the Vogelsang railroad station on 20 October. 5 25X1
12. On 21 October, among other vehicles, the following columns were observed in Vogelsang:
12 trucks with personnel and bedsteads [] 25X1
[] which went toward Zehdenick; 25X1
21 trucks [] which went toward Templin; 25X1
12 trucks with billeting equipment [] 25X1
Vehicular traffic was unusually heavy. 3
13. On 21 October, 5 boxcarloads of soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets were unloaded at the Zehdenick railroad station at 0900, and 18 boxcarloads of soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, bedsteads and furniture were unloaded at the Vogelsang railroad station between 1300 and 1500. [] 25X1
[] the latter shipment came from Prenzlau. 5 25X1
14. On 18 October, columns with guns reportedly went toward Templin and Zehdenick throughout the day. On 21 October, large columns passed over a bridge which was built across the Havel River in order to reach Camp Burgwall.
15. Between 1130 and 1300 on 19 October, trucks [] 25X1
[] carried billeting equipment from the Granienburg freight station to the Weisse Stadt (4683) settlement. 25X1
16. On 20 October, the Weisse Stadt was occupied by approximately 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia and blue-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia.

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17. At 0540 on 19 October, a troop train which had come from Loewenberg arrived at the Oranienburg railroad station. After 0730, the following soldiers and materiel were unloaded:

personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets from 8 boxcars;
 billeting equipment from 10 boxcars:
 6 T-34 tanks [redacted] 8 BA-64 armored scout cars
 [redacted] 2 armored personnel carriers
 [redacted] sidecar motorcycles, 2 field kitchens,
 1 generator and 30 trucks [redacted]

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[redacted]
 from 44 flatcars with sideracks. The vehicles subsequently left for the Weisse Stadt settlement.

18. The return of the units to the Prenzlau post started at 0145 on 19 October. Vehicles observed included:

0145. 19 T-34/85 tanks,
 0650. 20 T-34/85 tanks,
 0630 to 1800. Trucks shuttled billeting equipment to the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse (4742).

During the night of 19 October, artillery and motor vehicles arrived at the abovementioned kaserne by road. No unloadings were observed on 20 October.

At 0450 on 21 October, another 9 T-34/85 tanks were detrained and moved to the above-mentioned kaserne. The shuttle traffic by trucks was similar to that of 19 October.

On 22 October, the installation was again occupied to capacity. No heavy AT guns or mortars were observed.

19. The barracks installation northwest of Berliner Strasse (4741) in Prenzlau was occupied as previously. Furniture was being removed from the quarters. 3

1. [redacted] Comment. The movements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 are believed to have been made in connection with the fall exercises of the reinforced 25th Tank Div in the Lychen-Templin area between 14 and 16 October. [redacted]

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2. [redacted]
 [redacted]
 with information in paragraph 6, it is believed that the units included tank units of the 6th Gds Mech Div which either participated in the fall exercises of the 25th Tank Div or conducted independent firing practices at the Templin training grounds. There are no indications at the posts that tanks of the 25th Tank Div returned to their winter quarters on 16 and 17 October.

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3. Comment. All movements were made in connection with the retransfer to the winter quarters of units of the 25th Tank Div. It is believed that the units of the division were quartered as follows:

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Prenzlau. Occupied as previously by the 83d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt, the 20th Mtz Rifle Regt, the U/i Tank Tng Bn, the U/i Motor Trans Bn and, possibly, the 175th Tank Regt.

Vogelsang. Occupied as previously by 111th Tank Regt and, now, by the U/i Arty Regt and U/i Mort Regt, previously stationed in Prenzlau.

Oranienburg. Occupied as previously by the other elements of the division. The bulk is stationed in the Weisse Stadt settlement and elements are possibly stationed in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The location of the 162d Tank Regt is still undetermined.

4. Comment. The new east section of the Camp Vogelsang was probably occupied by the U/i Arty Regt and the U/i Mort Regt of the 25th Tank Div. See Comment 3.

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5. Comment. These troop shipments were probably made in connection with the personnel exchange program. In addition to Eberswalde, Bernau is being used as an assembly and distribution point during the 1954 personnel exchange program.

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